

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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USA Patent Application
Jürgen EHRET, et al
DOOR LOCK HAVING A CLOSING AID

Priority: German Patent Application
100 64 914.9 filed December 23, 2000

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend this application simultaneously with filing the
accompanying application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT

Cancel the Abstract and replace it with the Abstract presented on
the attached separate page.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, Line 1, delete this line paragraph, namely "Description"

Page 1, Line 5, before this line insert the following paragraph
heading:

FIELD AND BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, Line 20, before this line insert the following paragraph heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 4, Line 25, before this line insert the following paragraph heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 5, Line 1, before this line insert the following paragraph heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

IN THE CLAIMS

(APPLICATION PAGES 10-11)

Before claim 1, change "Patent claims" to --WE CLAIM:--

Please cancel claims 1-9 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein and substitute new claims 10-18 therefor:

10. (new) A door lock, in particular for motor vehicles, having a rotary latch (14) and a closing aid (10) which acts on the latter and, with aid of a drive, carries along a door to be closed over a last section into closed position, wherein the drive of the closing aid (10) is separated structurally from the door lock (12) and a flexible drive element (24) is provided for transmitting force from the drive to the rotary latch (14).

11. (new) The door lock as claimed in claim 10, wherein the rotary latch (14) is moveable into its closed position counter to force of a restoring spring by the flexible drive element in form of a tension element.

12. (new) The door lock as claimed in claim 10, wherein the drive drives a cable winch or a cable eccentric (22) onto which the drive element is windable.

13. (new) The door lock as claimed in claim 10, wherein the flexible drive element is a metal cable (24).

14. (new) The door lock as claimed in claim 10, wherein the flexible drive element undergoes a change in direction with aid of at least one deflection roller (26).

15. (new) The door lock as claimed in claim 14, wherein the deflection roller (26) is moveable from its normal position into an auxiliary opening position shortening path of the drive element.

16. (new) The door lock as claimed in claim 15, wherein the deflection roller (26) is arranged on a toggle lever (38) which is foldable in by actuation of an auxiliary opening device.

17. (new) The door lock as claimed in claim 10, wherein the drive element is kept under stress in all operating states by at least one preatressing spring.

18. (new) The door lock as claimed in claim 17, wherein at least a restoring spring of the rotary latch and/or a restoring spring of a driving lever (30) acting on said rotary latch ensures that the drive element is prestressed.

R E M A R K S

This amendment is requested to be entered simultaneously with filing this application.

Claims 1-9 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein and claims 10-18 are presented therefor which have the same subject matter of claims 1-9, and present the claims in accordance with USA practice under 35 USC 112 and eliminate multiple-dependent form claims.


No multiple-dependent claims exist in this application as of the filing date and no multiple-dependent claim fees apply.

The specification and claims have also been amended for formal improvement to comply with USA practice.

An Abstract is presented on a separate page herewith.

Please enter this Preliminary Amendment prior to calculating the claim fees and prior to an action on the merits, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Abstract

Door lock having a closing aid

A door lock (12) which is conceived in particular for use in motor vehicle doors has a rotary latch (14) and a closing aid (10) which acts on the latter and, with the aid of a drive, carries along the door to be closed in to the closed position. Known door locks having a closing aid have increased space requirement and cannot readily be accommodated in structurally predetermined constructional spaces. The invention provides the drive of the closing aid such that it is separated structurally from the door lock (12) and provides a flexible drive element for transmitting force from the drive to the rotary latch (14). If appropriate, a deflection roller (26) may be provided and may be designed such that it is moveable in order to bring about an auxiliary opening.